

**COLUMBIA RIVER COMPACT  
FACT SHEET  
April 20, 2001**

**Purpose:** To consider Commercial Fishery Proposals.

**TRIBAL SPRING CHINOOK MANAGEMENT**

- The TAC met on April 19 and updated the upriver spring chinook run size based on 1977 run timing. The TAC agreed to subsequently update the run size again today based on yesterday's Bonneville Dam count. The updated run size is now forecasted to be 440,300 at the mouth of the Columbia with 417,300 expected at Bonneville Dam.
- Treaty fisheries for 2001 will now be managed according to the Interim Management Agreement to not exceed a 14% impact rate on upriver wild spring chinook.
- Given the current forecast, the tribes expect to harvest 61,642 spring chinook. The Tribes have chosen to utilize their harvest in three fishery sectors: A ceremonial gillnet fishery, a subsistence platform fishery, and a commercial fishery.

<i>Treaty Fishery Impacts For Upriver Spring Chinook</i>		
Fishery	Impacts	
	Catch Expectation to date	Projection to end of spring season
Ceremonial Gillnet Fishery (through 4/15)	6,800	6,800
Subsistence Platform Fishery (through 4/16)	1,350	6,500
First Commercial Fishery Opening (4/17-4/19) preliminary	17,360	17,360
Remaining Available Harvest	36,090	30,940
Total	61,600	61,600

**STOCK STATUS**

- Preseason expectation was for a return of 364,600 spring chinook destined for above Bonneville Dam.
- Through April 19 a total of almost 250,000 adult spring chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.
- TAC will meet again on April 24 and will update the run at that time. If dam counts remain strong it is possible the run size could be updated to an even larger level.

- Run typically peaks at Bonneville Dam during mid to late April. The run appears to be most likely quite early, possibly matching the earliest run time on record which is 1977.

## **ZONE 6 COMMERCIAL FISHERY PROPOSAL**

- The tribes will propose a commercial gillnet fishery opening that is projected to harvest up to 15,000 - 20,000 spring chinook. This opening combined with the other fishery impacts to date will not exceed the total allowable impacts for the tribal fishery.
- Additionally, the tribes will propose allowing commercial sales of platform and hook and line caught fish beginning 6:00 AM tomorrow April 21 through 6:00 PM May 31. Because the platform fishery has not been catching many fish, the tribes do not expect the total harvest (subsistence and commercial) from the platform fishery to exceed 6,500 through the end of may. Tribal staff will continue to monitor the platform fishery and adjust the total catch estimate if necessary to not exceed the total allowable impacts.
- The steelhead impacts from the first commercial opening were 120 fish. Monitoring information to date suggests that the majority of steelhead harvested so far this year have been holdovers from the 2000 run. Only a very small proportion of the 2001 summer steelhead run has entered Zone 6 so far. The tribes anticipate low steelhead impacts in future commercial openings.
- The tribes intend to use an aerial survey to measure effort during the next gillnet opening. The catch sold to buyers will be sampled for CWT's by state staff.
- Based on tribal staff monitoring, the platform fishery has not been performing as expected. This appears to be because of extremely low flows and no spill. The fish appear to be migrating in the mid-channel making them relatively inaccessible to platform fishers.
- After this opening, the tribes may propose additional commercial openings dependant on the number of fish left available for harvest.
- The tribes propose that a Compact be scheduled for to consider additional tribal commercial fishing.

<i><b>Proposed Commercial Fishery</b></i>	
Area:	All of Zone 6
Dates:	6:00 AM Thursday April 26 to 6:00 PM Saturday April 28
Restrictions:	Allowable sales include chinook salmon, steelhead, walleye, and shad. Commercial sales of platform caught fish are allowed during commercial openings. Sturgeon between 4 and 5 feet may be retained for subsistence use. All standard sanctuaries remain in effect with the exception of the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary which is not necessary at this time of year.

## **NON-INDIAN EXPERIMENTAL TANGLE NET PERMIT FISHERY**

- Impacts to upriver wild spring chinook associated with this fishery are included in the non-Indian 2% impact limit.
- This fishery will be managed not to exceed a 0.4% impact on the upriver wild spring chinook run.

- The permit fishery is one portion of a four-faceted study intended to investigate the feasibility of using live capture methods in commercial spring chinook fisheries.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Joint Staff recommends that commercial fishers participating in this Experimental Permit Fishery be allowed to sell fish landed in this permit fishery to a licensed wholesale fish dealer or buyer in accordance with the attached "Permit to Use Experimental Tangle Net Gear to Live Capture Spring Chinook".</li> </ul>	
Season:	Monday April 23 through Friday May 18
Area	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Grays Bay, Elokomín-A, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal River, and Sandy River sanctuaries are in effect.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon and shad.
Participants:	A total of 20 commercial fishers have been chosen by lottery procedure to participate in this fishery.
Other restrictions:	Specific locations, dates, and other miscellaneous restrictions are included in the "Permit to Use Experimental Tangle Net Gear to Live Capture Spring Chinook".